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any hospital which has up to this time been constructed, anywhere in the entire world. CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE in proper time will present to its readers a description of this new building, with comments on its arrangements and facilities, and on its relationships to the community and to the medical profession.

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Why These Criticisms by the Council of the California Medical Association Are Made.—At this time, comment will be made on the announcements which recently have been put forth by the hospital authorities, or means to meet its present overcrowded condition. Criticism is not here expressed on the effort of the hospital authorities in striving to provide care for the indigent sick and injured, since that is their obligation as officials; but rather because provision has not been made before now to meet this need which for a long time has been so evident, through the erection, say of a battery of simple one-story, easily constructed, practically fireproof temporary structures, by means of which at very moderate expense the rich county of Los Angeles could easily have provided one to two hundred additional beds.

Such temporary structures could have been built either on the present hospital site acreage or at the county farm. If at the latter place, then the beds of these emergency structures could have been filled by some of the less ill or chronic inmates of the county hospital, and placed under the care of salaried residents and of interns at the infirmary division of the county farm. Such buildings later on could have been utilized for other purposes.

The opinions here expressed, probably would not have been made were it not for the fact that the plan which has been devised to meet the Los Angeles County Hospital's needs, presumably by its medical director, are of such nature as to be a possible menace to the future welfare of the medical profession and the standards to which it is committed. Since the California Medical Association is much interested in the maintenance of such standards, it cannot be expected to stand by without pointing out what seem to be serious mistakes in procedure.

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The Plan as Outlined in Bulletin of January 11, 1930.—In the opinion of the members of the Council of the California Medical Association, this new Los Angeles County Hospital plan, even though intended only as an emergency measure, is fraught with danger to the maintenance of the best standards in public health and in organized medicine, and since it could have been avoided, to that extent at least, would seem to have been unnecessary.

The procedure to be followed in this innovation is outlined in Los Angeles County Hospital Bulletin No. 1072 of date of January 11, 1930. This bulletin is addressed "To Coöperating Pri-

EDITORIALS

DOES LOS ANGELES COUNTY HOSPITAL EXTENSION INTO PRIVATE HOSPITALS CONSTITUTE A MENACE TO MEDICAL PRACTICE?

Los Angeles County Hospital Overcrowded: Ten Million Dollar Building Being Erected.—The Los Angeles County General Hospital is going through the strain of somewhat severe overcrowding. For a number of years the annual reports have stressed its need for more beds. In response to the agitation for facilities adequate to care for the indigent sick and injured of Los Angeles County who seek admission to its wards, a new hospital unit is being erected. This new unit for injuries and for acute diseases will cost some \$10,000,000! Perhaps \$12,000,000 will be nearer the total cost of this new unit. Part of this immense sum of money has come out of an initial \$5,000,000 bond issue. The remainder is being taken from the annual tax levy funds of the county, because the taxpayers have acquired a partial prejudice toward bond issues, and general taxation brings in the money with less general strain on the body politic. This new unit probably will not be ready for occupancy for another year or so.

The new structure is a massive building that is unique in many ways and quite different from